CALGARY
Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan
January 4, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by C4I and read by news editor Bryan Labby.

Objectives:
- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:
Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).

Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY IS THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS

Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-in-search-of-a-new-identity-1.3381528

WARM UP

Look at the picture of Calgary above. What do you know about Calgary? In your opinion, what makes a city a popular destination? If you moved to Calgary recently, why did you choose this city?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Match the following words with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

I	1. guessed	A. situated inside
	2. land-locked	B. the place that people travel to visit or live
	3. interior	C. Increased in size or number
	4. popular	D. surrounded by land; no coastline; away from the ocean
	5. destination	E. a measurement; quantity, or frequency; a fixed price; cost
	6. growth	F. to become twice as much or many
	7. rate	G. a large, dense, populated area or city; a person living in a large city
	8. metropolitan	H. movement from one place to another
	9. doubled	I. estimated; predicted
	10. migration	J. to have a strong effect on someone or something
	11. impact	K. liked by many people
	12. unique	L. one of a kind; unlike anything else; distinct

(See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1
Instructions: Listen to the first news story for overall comprehension. After listening, circle your response to the following question:

How much of the news story did you understand?

Most   Some   Little

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2
Listen to the news story again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

Who would have _____ that Calgary, a land-locked interior city, would be the most popular _____ in Canada for people moving within the country? For the last 30 years, Calgary and Edmonton have had the highest growth rates of any _____ city in Canada.

Over the last 30 years, the population of Calgary has _____ from 650,000 to 1.25 million people. Most of this growth has come from _____ - both interprovincial migration and international migration, which have had a huge _____ on the city.

The result of this migration is that Calgary has a very _____ labour force because it is people under 40 that are most likely to migrate. Also, this group is the most likely to have children. Therefore, the birth _____ is strong and the number of children is increasing compared to other cities. As a result, Statistics Canada has identified Calgary as the most _____ city in North America because of the nature of this growth and its impact.
(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 1
Instructions: Underline all of the examples of the present perfect tense in the text above. Check your answers with the answer key.

FORM
The present perfect of any verb is composed of two elements: the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb **to have** (present tense), plus the past participle of the main verb. The past participle of a regular verb is **base+ed**, e.g. *played, arrived, looked*.

Subject	to have	past participle	Object
She	*has*	*visited*	*Calgary.*

FUNCTION
The present perfect describes events that started in the past and continue in the present. It is also used to describe repeated actions between the past and now.

NEWS STORY 2: OIL PRICE DIPS BELOW $37 US

Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/market-dollar-oil-loonie-1.3358783

WARM UP

Look at the image of the Canadian loonie above. What is the current value of the Canadian dollar compared to the United States dollar? Do you see why the Canadian dollar is referred to as the loonie?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions. Match the words in column A with words in the column B. The first one is done for you.

Answer	Column A	Column B
5	A. drop	1. plan
	B. trade	2. more than needed
	C. intend	3. to lead to
	D. increase	4. to produce
	E. sell-off	5. decrease
	F. catalyst	6. rise
	G. excess	7. get rid of
	H. pump out	8. export / import

(See answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2
Instructions: Read the following script and underline the other words you do not understand. If you are in a classroom, find a partner and compare the words you underlined to the words your partner underlined. Next, look up the definitions to the words you underlined.

Script:
North America's main oil blend dropped to $37 US a barrel, dragging the Canadian dollar below the 72-cent US level. West Texas Intermediate was going for $36.80 a barrel, down 3.4 per cent, on the first trading day last week.

The catalyst for the sell-off was a report that Iran intends to increase exports by 500,000 barrels per day once economic sanctions are removed. That would only add to excess global supplies that have led to decreases in oil prices.

Currently, the world is pumping out more than a million barrels per day of oil - more than it needs to meet global demand. That's keeping prices low as it's a buyer's market. Low oil prices have been bad news for Canada's dollar, which is closely tied to the value of oil.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1
Listen to the second news story. Follow along using the script above.

LANGUAGE FOCUS
Instructions: The following words are often used in business to describe trends. Write the following words in the correct column below. The first one is done for you.

decreased   rose   remained constant   fluctuated   stayed the same
declined   went up   stabilized   dropped   increased
leveled off   grew

GO UP	GO DOWN	NO CHANGE	GO UP AND DOWN
	decreased		

Look at the words above. What verb tense are they written in?

_____

(See answer key)

NEWS STORY 3: FOOD PRICES SET TO RISE IN 2016

Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/food-prices-inflation-1.3382872

WARM UP

Have you noticed an increase in food prices? What reasons do food prices increase? How do increases in food prices impact you and your family? How do you feel about the cost of food increases?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Look at the words below and circle the words you do not know.

expensive	executives	estimate	household
additional	consumers	vulnerable	fluctuations

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the following words with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

F	1. expensive	A. to calculate roughly
	2. executives	B. extra; more
	3. estimate	C. senior managers within a business organization
	4. household	D. people who buy goods and services for personal use
	5. additional	E. susceptible; at risk; in need of special care
	6. consumers	F. costing a lot of money
	7. vulnerable	G. rises and falls in a number or amount; variation
	8. fluctuations	H. a house and its occupants

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1
Instructions: Listen to the third news story for overall comprehension. After listening, circle your response to the following question:

How much of the news story did you understand?

Most   Some   Little

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2
Listen to the news story again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

If a trip to the grocery store seems _____ now, just wait till 2016.

_____ from grocery chains have said increased food costs and a weak loonie have led to higher prices.

The University of Guelph's Food Institute _____ the average Canadian _____ spent an additional $325 on food in 2015. On top of that, they say consumers should expect an additional annual increase of about $345 in 2016.

Since 81 per cent of all vegetables and fruit consumed in Canada are _____, they are highly _____ to currency _____. Researchers state they are to increase in price by four to 4.5 per cent in the new year.
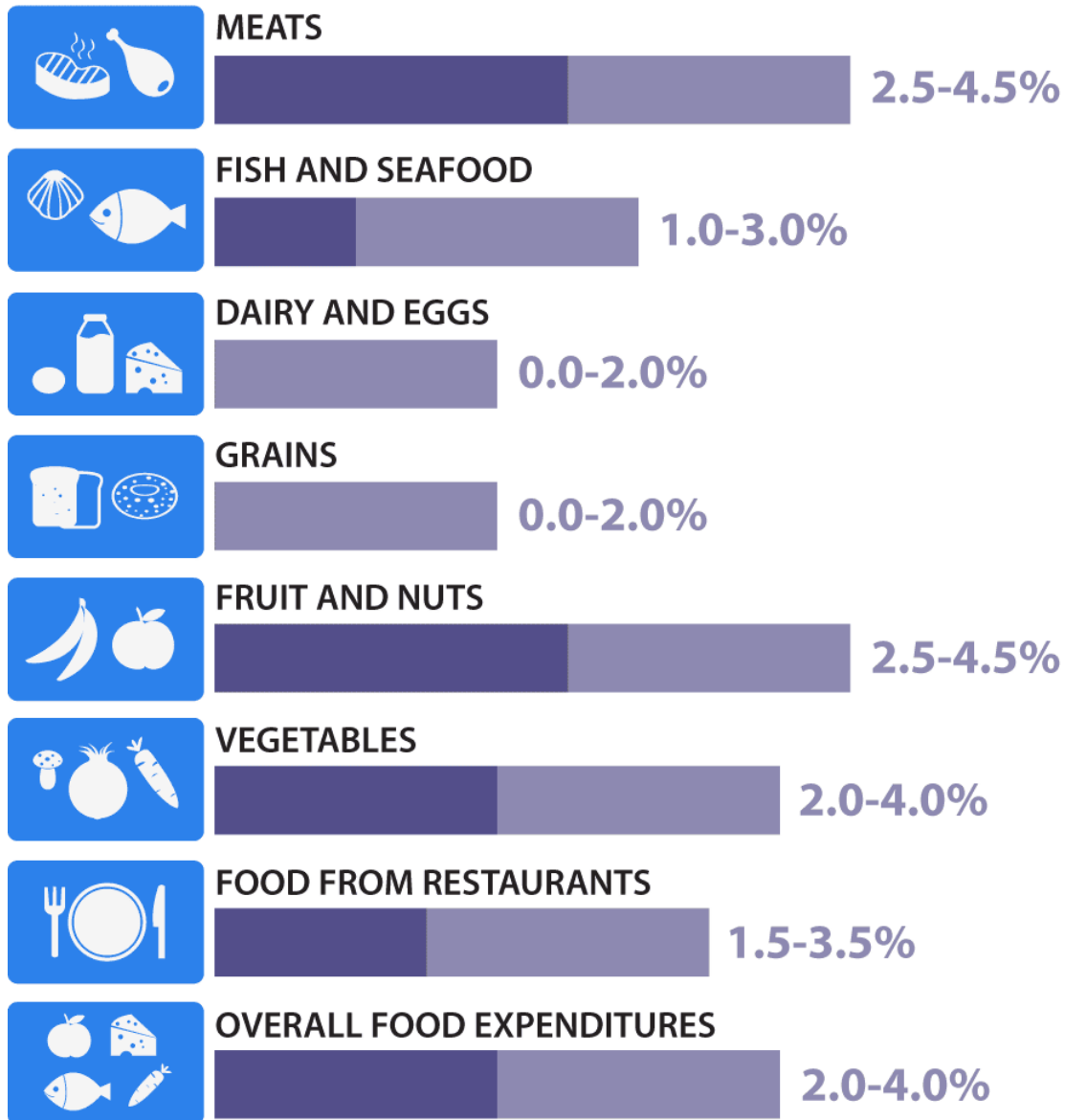
Meat prices, which rose five per cent last year, are _____ to increase up to another 4.5 per cent in 2016; fish and seafood could rise by up to three per cent; and dairy, eggs and grains could see a two per cent _____.

(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 1
Instructions: Look at the chart below of expected increases in food prices in 2016.

EXPECTED FOOD PRICE INCREASES IN 2016

MEATS
2.5-4.5%

FISH AND SEAFOOD
1.0-3.0%

DAIRY AND EGGS
0.0-2.0%

GRAINS
0.0-2.0%

FRUIT AND NUTS
2.5-4.5%

VEGETABLES
2.0-4.0%

FOOD FROM RESTAURANTS
1.5-3.5%

OVERALL FOOD EXPENDITURES
2.0-4.0%

Write 3 sentences below about the chart.
1.
2.
3.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Bryan Labby. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of January 4th.	0:00
Newscast 1 *Calgary is the destination of choice for migrants*	Who would have guessed that Calgary, a land-locked interior city, would be the most popular destination in Canada for people moving within the country? For the last 30 years, Calgary and Edmonton have had the highest growth rates of any metropolitan city in Canada. Over the last 30 years, the population of Calgary has doubled from 650,000 to 1.25 million people. Most of this growth has come from migration - both interprovincial migration and international migration, which have had a huge impact on the city. The result of this migration is that Calgary has a very youthful labour force because it is people under 40 that are most likely to migrate. Also this group is the most likely to have children. Therefore, the birth rate is strong and the number of children is increasing compared to other cities. As a result, Statistics Canada has identified Calgary as the most unique city in North America because of the nature of this growth and its impact.	0:07
Newscast 2 *Canadian dollar drops as oil prices drop*	North America's main oil blend dropped to $37 US a barrel, dragging the Canadian dollar below the 72-cent US level. West Texas Intermediate was going for $36.80 a barrel, down 3.4 per cent, on the first trading day last week. The catalyst for the sell-off was a report that Iran intends to increase exports by 500,000 barrels per day once economic sanctions are removed. That would only add to excess global supplies that have led to decreases in oil prices. Currently, the world is pumping out more than a million barrels per day of oil - more than it needs to meet global demand. That's keeping prices low as it's a buyer's market. Low oil prices have been bad news for Canada's dollar, which is closely tied to the value of oil.	1:19

| Newscast 3

Food prices set to rise in 2016 as weak loonie takes a bigger bite | If a trip to the grocery store seems expensive now, just wait till 2016.

Executives from grocery chains have said increased food costs and a weak loonie have led to higher prices.

The University of Guelph's Food Institute estimates the average Canadian household spent an additional $325 on food in 2015. On top of that, they say consumers should expect an additional annual increase of about $345 in 2016.

Since 81 per cent of all vegetables and fruit consumed in Canada are imported, they are highly vulnerable to currency fluctuations. Researchers state they are to increase in price by four to 4.5 per cent in the new year.

Meat prices, which rose five per cent last year, are expected to increase up to another 4.5 per cent in 2016; fish and seafood could rise by up to three per cent; and dairy, eggs and grains could see a two per cent increase. | 2:16 |
|---|---|---|

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1:
CALGARY IS THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR MIGRANTS

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

I	1. guessed	A.	situated inside
D	2. land-locked	B.	the place that people travel to visit or live
A	3. interior	C.	increase in size or number
K	4. popular	D.	surrounded by land; no coastline; away from the ocean
B	5. destination	E.	a measurement; quantity, or frequency; a fixed price; cost
C	6. growth	F.	to become twice as much or many
E	7. rate	G.	a large, dense, populated area or city; a person living in a large city
G	8. metropolitan	H.	movement from one place to another
F	9. doubled	I.	estimated; predicted
H	10. migration	J.	to have a strong effect on someone or something
J	11. impact	K.	liked by many people
L	12. unique	L.	one of a kind; unlike anything else; distinct

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Who would have guessed that Calgary, a land-locked interior city, would be the most popular destination in Canada for people moving within the country? For the last 30 years, Calgary and Edmonton have had the highest growth rates of any metropolitan city in Canada.

Over the last 30 years, the population of Calgary has doubled from 650,000 to 1.25 million people. Most of this growth has come from miration - both interprovincial migration and international migration, which have had a huge impact on the city.

The result of this migration is that Calgary has a very youthful labour force because it is people under 40 that are most likely to migrate. Also, this group is the most likely to have children. Therefore, the birth rate is strong and the number of children is increasing compared to other cities. As a result, Statistics Canada has identified Calgary as the most unique city in North America because of the nature of this growth and its impact.

LANGUAGE ACTIVITY 1
See the examples of present perfect above. Examples are in boxes.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2:
OIL PRICE DIPS BELOW $37 US

WARM UP
The Canadian one dollar coin, commonly called the loonie, is a gold-coloured one-dollar coin introduced in 1987. It bears images of a common loon, a bird which is common and well known in Canada. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loonie)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Answer	Column A	Column B
5	A. drop	1. plan
8	B. trade	2. more than needed
1	C. intend	3. to lead to
6	D. increase	4. to produce
7	E. sell-off	5. decrease
3	F. catalyst	6. rise
2	G. excess	7. get rid of
4	H. pump out	8. export / import

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2
Responses will vary

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 1

GO UP	GO DOWN	NO CHANGE	GO UP AND DOWN
• rose • went up • increased	• Decreased • Declined • dropped	• remained constant • stayed the same • stabilized • levelled off	• fluctuated

Look at the words above. What verb tense are they written in?
Past tense

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3:
FOOD PRICES SET TO RISE IN 2016

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

F	1. expensive	A.	to calculate roughly
C	2. executives	B.	extra; more
A	3. estimate	C.	senior managers within a business organization
H	4. household	D.	people who buy goods and services for personal use
B	5. additional	E.	susceptible; at risk; in need of special care
D	6. consumers	F.	costing a lot of money
E	7. vulnerable	G.	rises and falls in a number or amount; variation
G	8. fluctuations	H.	a house and its occupants

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2
Listen to the news story again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

If a trip to the grocery store seems expensive now, just wait till 2016.

Executives from grocery chains have said increased food costs and a weak loonie have led to higher prices.

The University of Guelph's Food Institute estimated the average Canadian household spent an additional $325 on food in 2015. On top of that, they say consumers should expect an additional annual increase of about $345 in 2016.

Since 81 per cent of all vegetables and fruit consumed in Canada are imported, they are highly vulnerable to currency fluctuations. Researchers state they are to increase in price by four to 4.5 per cent in the new year.

Meat prices, which rose five per cent last year, are expected to increase up to another 4.5 per cent in 2016; fish and seafood could rise by up to three per cent; and dairy, eggs and grains could see a two per cent increase.

LANGUAGE FOCUS
Answers will vary. See examples below.

Write 3 sentences below about the chart.
1. The price of meats is expected to increase by 2.5 to 4.5 per cent.
2. Fish and seafood will go up in price by 1.0 to 3.0 per cent.
3. Overall food costs will increase by 2 to 4 per cent in 2016.